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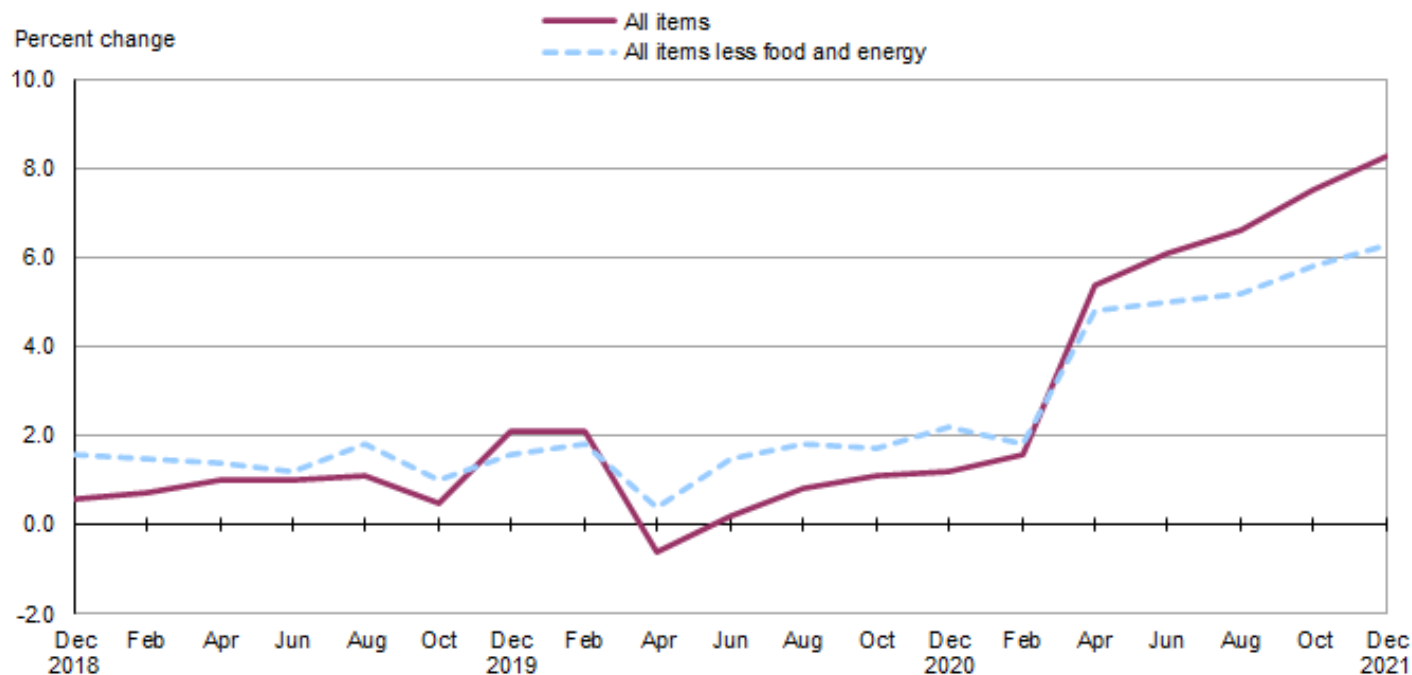
## Consumer Price Index, St. Louis – December 2021

**Area prices rise 0.8 percent in November and December, up 8.3 percent over the year**

Prices in the St. Louis area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.8 percent for the two months ending in December 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that a 0.7-percent increase in the index for all items less food and energy was the leading factor in the rise, but higher prices for energy and food also contributed. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 8.3 percent. (See [chart 1.](#)) The index for all items less food and energy increased 6.3 percent over the year. Energy prices jumped 34.1 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The food index advanced 8.3 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, St. Louis, MO-IL, December 2018–December 2021**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## **Food**

Food prices rose 0.6 percent for the two months ending in December. The index for food at home (grocery store prices) increased 1.1 percent, mainly due to price increases for fruits and vegetables. Prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) were unchanged for the same period.

During the 12 months ending in December 2021, food prices increased 8.3 percent. Prices for food away from home jumped 11.0 percent, and prices for food at home advanced 6.2 percent since a year ago.

## **Energy**

The energy index rose 2.5 percent for the two months ending in December. The increase was almost entirely due to higher prices for natural gas service (+16.1 percent). Prices for electricity increased 1.3 percent, while prices for gasoline decreased 0.6 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 34.1 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (+56.7 percent), but all components contributed. Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 31.5 percent, and prices for electricity advanced 7.5 percent during the past year.

## **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.7 percent in November and December, after rising 1.1 percent in September and October. Higher prices for owners' equivalent rent of residences (+1.4 percent), new and used motor vehicles (+3.6 percent), and recreation (+2.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-3.7 percent), rent of primary residence (-0.7 percent) and other goods and services (-1.0 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 6.3 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (+5.4 percent), new and used motor vehicles (+20.1 percent), and household furnishings and operations (+6.6 percent).

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**The February 2022 Consumer Price Index for the St. Louis area is scheduled to be released on Thursday, March 10, 2022.**

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on December 2021 Consumer Price Index Data**

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended almost entirely since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in December was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month.

For each month from March 2020 to December 2021, BLS has published a summary of the impact of the pandemic on the Consumer Price Index news release and data. The impact summary for December is available at [www.bls.gov/covid19/consumer-price-index-covid19-impacts-december-2021.htm](http://www.bls.gov/covid19/consumer-price-index-covid19-impacts-december-2021.htm). Beginning with publication of January 2022 data in February 2022, this month-specific impact summary will be discontinued. However, information related to the impact of the pandemic will continue to be available at [www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm](http://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm).

### **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The St. Louis, MO-IL, area covered in this release includes Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair counties in Illinois; and Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, and Warren counties and St. Louis City in Missouri.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, St. Louis, MO-IL (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Oct. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2021	Dec. 2020	Oct. 2021	Nov. 2021
All items .....	251.624	-	253.618	8.3	0.8	-
All items (1967 = 100) .....	747.365	-	753.287			
Food and beverages .....	283.363	-	284.621	7.6	0.4	-
Food .....	281.662	-	283.364	8.3	0.6	-
Food at home .....	255.299	257.505	258.004	6.2	1.1	0.2
Cereals and bakery products .....	224.977	-	220.588	1.4	-2.0	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	291.154	-	288.224	10.7	-1.0	-
Dairy and related products .....	155.285	-	158.856	-2.6	2.3	-
Fruits and vegetables .....	375.072	-	390.392	1.8	4.1	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) .....	181.974	-	185.598	7.5	2.0	-
Other food at home .....	256.994	-	261.046	9.5	1.6	-
Food away from home .....	325.420	-	325.506	11.0	0.0	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	270.494	-	267.057	0.4	-1.3	-
Housing .....	244.947	-	247.260	6.2	0.9	-
Shelter .....	291.043	294.204	292.213	5.4	0.4	-0.7
Rent of primary residence .....	266.549	269.703	264.686	3.5	-0.7	-1.9
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2) ....	297.713	302.100	301.744	4.1	1.4	-0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2) .....	297.713	302.100	301.744	4.1	1.4	-0.1
Fuels and utilities .....	227.009	-	236.790	11.0	4.3	-
Household energy .....	192.001	195.205	203.818	15.5	6.2	4.4
Energy services .....	193.124	196.358	205.235	15.2	6.3	4.5
Electricity .....	187.282	189.392	189.720	7.5	1.3	0.2
Utility (piped) gas service .....	168.744	173.390	195.837	31.5	16.1	12.9
Household furnishings and operations .....	131.987	-	133.287	6.6	1.0	-
Apparel .....	132.589	-	127.620	2.4	-3.7	-
Transportation .....	221.913	-	225.393	21.7	1.6	-
Private transportation .....	227.573	-	230.979	22.7	1.5	-
New and used motor vehicles(3) .....	111.691	-	115.733	20.1	3.6	-
New vehicles(1) .....	229.176	-	236.440	11.1	3.2	-
Used cars and trucks(1) .....	420.436	-	447.161	37.9	6.4	-
Motor fuel .....	291.637	299.950	290.066	56.6	-0.5	-3.3
Gasoline (all types) .....	286.991	295.141	285.222	56.7	-0.6	-3.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4) .....	276.641	284.434	274.675	57.8	-0.7	-3.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5) .....	338.165	348.539	338.435	50.5	0.1	-2.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4) .....	289.700	298.570	290.717	48.2	0.4	-2.6
Motor vehicle insurance(1) .....	576.931	-	576.992	8.9	0.0	-
Medical care .....	492.227	-	493.886	6.3	0.3	-
Recreation(3) .....	119.899	-	122.558	2.1	2.2	-
Education and communication(3) .....	149.619	-	150.171	4.2	0.4	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ...	1,295.548	-	1,299.397	2.7	0.3	-
Other goods and services .....	334.224	-	330.845	0.6	-1.0	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
Commodities .....	207.421	-	209.089	12.3	0.8	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	169.259	-	170.974	15.3	1.0	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	225.677	-	223.640	15.7	-0.9	-
Durables .....	116.404	-	119.754	14.9	2.9	-
Services .....	297.756	-	300.093	5.9	0.8	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less shelter .....	240.104	-	242.429	9.6	1.0	-
All items less medical care .....	239.514	-	241.516	8.5	0.8	-
Commodities less food .....	173.544	-	175.115	14.5	0.9	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, St. Louis, MO-IL (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Oct. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2021	Dec. 2020	Oct. 2021	Nov. 2021
Nondurables .....	254.871	-	254.424	11.1	-0.2	-
Nondurables less food.....	230.054	-	227.899	14.1	-0.9	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	311.920	-	315.545	6.1	1.2	-
Services less medical care services.....	278.807	-	281.097	5.6	0.8	-
Energy .....	237.496	242.988	243.454	34.1	2.5	0.2
All items less energy .....	256.484	-	258.154	6.6	0.7	-
All items less food and energy .....	252.347	-	254.010	6.3	0.7	-

(1) Indexes on an March 1978=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a November 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Index on a December 1993=100.

- Data not available.